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STATINTL

The Dodd Case

With the first phase of the Senate Ethics Committee's inquiry into charges made against Senator Dodd ended, it is possible to draw a first conclusion. This phase of the inquiry dealt with the Senator's relationship with public relations man Julius Klein. The charge was that the Senator was Klein's "errand boy." That has not been proved.

Facts brought to light about the relationship were not at all flattering to the

Senator. He accepted an incredible effrontery on Klein's part, and impetuous requests for assistance. He undertook to do a chore for Klein, but there was no proof that it was a chore that offended his duty to his constituents, his nation and the Senate. Not every senator would put up with the demands Klein made on Dodd, but neither can every senator say that he has not endured "demanding friends, or done favors for individuals.

The real public interest in the Dodd case centers on the next set of charges to be investigated. He is accused of having used money raised by small groups of constituents to supplement his income. It has been said both that the funds were raised under false pre-

tenses--as pretended campaign expenses--and that they were raised manifestly as an income supplement. Either way, this is serious business. A public servant in the first instance would be a fraud; in the second he would be the subsidized servant of a special group that might have interests contrary to those of the constituency that elected him, and whose interests he swears to uphold.

Chairman Stennis and the members of the committee have conducted themselves admirably in the first session of the inquiry. We hope they will continue to do so, giving Senator Dodd every chance to disprove the charges against him, and giving the Senate and the public all the pertinent facts.